

The Kansas Union Farmer

Published Every Thursday at Salina, Kansas, by THE KANSAS BRANCH OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL & CO-OPERATIVE UNION 119 South Seventh Street

Entered as Second-Class Matter August 24, 1912 at Salina, Kansas. Under Act of March 3, 1872.

Acceptance for Mailing at Special Rate of Postage Provided for in Section 1103. Act of October 3, 1917. Authorized July 30, 1918.

C. E. HUFF, Editor and Manager

Subscription Price, per Year.....\$1.00

Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

Change of Address—When change of address is ordered, give old as well as new address, and R. F. D.

All copy, with the exception of notices and including advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.

Communications and Questions—Communications are solicited from practical farmers, members of the F. E. & C. U. of A., are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answers will be either published or mailed.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1927

THE FARMERS UNION IS NOW HANDLING BILLIONS

We have said that under the banner of the Farmers Union is to be found the largest group of co-operatives in America. Operating figures covering the business of these co-operatives are hard to assemble, because there is no rule or law compelling these co-operatives to report to the National Secretary of the Farmers Union.

For example, Oklahoma is dotted with Farmers Union cotton gins. It was reported to the Convention that Union members in Oklahoma had added this year to their cotton ginning equipment over a million dollars worth of new machinery.

Nebraska Union members have gone very extensively into the distribution of oil and gas and are taking steps to establish a uniform gasoline purchased through a state agency and labeled Farmers Union Gasoline. Nebraska's big Union creameries are running up into millions in volume. Kansas has gone forward rapidly with banking. But these are minor things.

Property Insurance

In the field of Mutual Property Insurance eight co-operatives reported in 1926 insurance in force aggregating the tremendous sum of \$121,250,000. These same eight states this year reported insurance in force of \$156,300,000, or a gain in one year of \$35,050,000.

Nine Live Stock Houses

The nine big live stock commission houses of the Farmers Union, which handled in 1926 live stock to the value of \$112,149,469.87 have all made gains in volume this year with perhaps the most noteworthy gain at South St. Paul. Our South St. Paul house has had to double the year's space or "pens." In the first fifteen days of November, 1927, our Farmers Union Commission House at South St. Paul handled live stock to the total value of \$554,000. This is at the rate of a million dollars per month. It is possible that the November business may exceed a million dollars. Chicago shows a proportional gain due to the rapid organization of the Farmers Union in northern Illinois.

Grain at Terminals

The Farmers Union is now handling grain on five of the terminal grain markets, and it will please our folks here in the northwest to know that the Farmers Union grain sales agencies, is leading all the others. At the time of going to press with this issue, sales of grain by the Farmers Union Terminal Association since August first of this year had reached a total of \$4,000,000.

Making Huge Savings

These great marketing institutions, the insurance companies, and local co-operatives, aggregating thousands in number, are doing a business that amounts upward far beyond millions or even hundreds of millions of dollars. The savings alone that have been made, which savings are now in the pockets of the individual members of the Farmers Union instead of in the bank accounts of private speculators and handlers of farm products, equal sums of money that total millions.

THUS FAR THE UNION HAS NOT SUSTAINED A FAILURE OF A MAJOR CO-OPERATIVE IN HALF A SCORE OF YEARS.

And all this is due to the fact that the parent organization, the Union itself, through its speakers and organizers went out to the cross roads, mainly to the country school houses, organized locals and educated its members to buy together, sell together, and stick together.

The Union has attempted no unsound promotion schemes. Its institutions have been built on the sound principles of co-operation and sustained by a loyal and educated membership. Its practically all organizations are so located that practically all farmers from Chicago westward to the Pacific Ocean and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico may be served by these business activities.

Service benefits are therefore available at once to the new members who are joining the Farmers Union. The new member may consign his grain to his own farmer owned sales agency. He can ship his live stock to his own sales agency at the terminal where farmer minded salesmen are on hand to look after his live stock as if it were their own. He can insure his life and thus protect his family in his own farmer owned life insurance company and likewise his property. In most, if not all sections, he can turn his cream over to his own butter factory, and in some places, his poultry to his own dressing station and retail store plant.

He can buy as well as sell.

A new Union oil station is born about every hour, and we can see the time coming when a Union member will be able to start out on a trip to the Gulf of Mexico or to the Rocky Mountains and fill his gas tank with Farmers Union Gasoline all the way.

And this is the organization concerning which some pin head reporter for the Associated Press

sent the word over the wires that somebody had said that the Farmers Union was bankrupt, or was likely to go bankrupt, because the parent organization saw fit to pay a man a salary of \$5,000 per year to spend most of his time at Washington to see that these gigantic institutions of the Union were protected by the laws of the land against the assaults of private speculators and corporations, who have fought in every conceivable way to keep the farmers outside the gates of the big terminal markets.

The reporter who sent those lines over the wires of the Associated Press doubtless thought he was pleasing his masters, and the Associated Press manager higher up who put his O. K. on this malicious slander must have thought he was pleasing some one still higher up, and when you get to the seat of the throne, you find the institution that in 1917 put words in the mouth of Senator La Follette at St. Paul which he never uttered, but which were broadcasted over the land as fact with the plain intent to do Senator La Follette a deadly injury.—Farmers Union Herald.

(Still, in fairness to the Associated Press, we must admit that the statement was made. It was an untrue statement.)

THE BUSINESS MEN'S COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE REPORTS DISTRESSING CONDITIONS

"The evidence is clear that American agriculture has undergone a prolonged and trying readjustment to post-war conditions, in the course of which those engaged in it have suffered seriously in their relative economic prosperity in comparison with those engaged in other fields. On the human side, it has been deprived of the energy, experience and knowledge of many thousands of farmers who have lost their resources and have been persuaded or compelled to leave the farm for other occupations, while the land resources of the nation have been impaired by neglect and wasteful exploitation under the pressure to which those who remained on the farm have been subjected.

"Agriculture in this country also appears to be subject to certain deep-lying ills which time alone cannot safely be relied upon to cure but may even accentuate. There is evidence that real as well as money costs in the industry are rising; that we are not keeping our old superiority over competitors; that the fertility of the land is being impaired; that erosion is insidiously and constantly carrying away a layer of irreplaceable surface soil not only from the hillsides but over practically the whole area devoted to ploughed crops; that many if not most farmers are year after year failing to secure a return equivalent to that which can be obtained in the city by workers of no greater ability, that the comparative advantage of other industries is rapidly increasing; that the obstacles to the extension of markets for farm products are growing more effective; that the difficulties of improving the organization and methods of agriculture are increasing; that the year by year fluctuations in the prices of farm commodities are growing ever more severe and are increasing the hazard under which the farmer carries on his occupations; that tenancy is increasing; and that the quality of the farm population is undergoing a progressive deterioration.

"Our national policies in respect to industry, trade and international relations all have a profound bearing on the agricultural problem. But the aim in agricultural policies should have in view such improvement in the economic position of the farmer as is consistent with the wisest utilization of our land resources and the development of types of farmers and of rural life which will make not only for greater farm prosperity but for the long-time

and crop failure, and to build a credit structure to free our folks from financial bondage to the class that holds the money bags.

We are determined to pursue this policy as one of both common sense and business sense until this section of the agricultural area is organized. When the organization is built, the organization will control, and if it elects to change this policy, it will be possible to do so.

The first duty of a farm organization seeking a solution of the farm problem is to organize the producers. This cannot be done with the proceeds of fees and dues alone, because any fee and due sufficient to accomplish the task will not be paid by the farmer. Such cost in the main must come out of the toll now taken by stock buyers, grain buyers, produce buyers and commission men. The annual toll taken jointly by the buyers and handlers of grain, live stock, produce and the premiums paid on insurance to old line insurance companies run into millions of dollars, much of which is profit. The diversion of these tolls and profits from private handlers, to the Farmers Union service organizations will pay for organization, education and establish credit reserves.

President Chas. S. Barrett says the Farmers Union has done more with less money than any other organization which ever existed.

NORTH DAKOTA EXPLAINS THEIR METHOD OF THE USE PROFITS FOR ORGANIZATION AND FOR RESERVES

The set up of the state organization is, we believe, a step in advance of all the states now members of the Union. We are set up as a business organization empowered by law to buy and sell co-operatively. We have provided for extension of control of our marketing agencies by the membership through boards of control selected by the membership just as rapidly as the farmers place themselves in an organized position to participate in such control. This is a complete and final answer to those who have visioned the set up of business organizations with control thereof removed from the organization itself. No such thing was ever contemplated or intended.

Here in the northwest we have made another departure. We are not paying patronage dividends on savings made out of commissions, as they are doing in the older states. We are using the earnings and intend to use such earnings for two purposes.

1st. We are using the earnings to build and extend the organization.

2nd. We are setting up reserves in cash and property in order to guard against periods of distress

social and political welfare of the nation as a whole. "A sound national agricultural policy conceived in this way cannot rest upon government action alone, but requires active participation and co-operation of farmers and of other economic groups as well as that of local, state and federal governmental authorities.

"The commission believes that efforts should be made more nearly to equalize, as between agriculture and manufacturing industry, such benefits as the existing protective tariff system can afford to both. Protective policies which tend to place artificial obstacles in the way of natural and normal extension of markets for American farm products and which tend to increase the domestic costs of their production should be subjected to careful reconsideration with a view to equalizing their effects."

Because the conditions outlined by this Commission are true and regrettable, the Farmers Union is emphatically and boisterously in favor of a farm relief bill embodying the principle incorporated in the McNary-Haugen bill vetoed by President Coolidge.

NEED CRUSADING SPIRIT

Sometimes we wonder whether in preaching co-operation and urging patronage of our co-operative enterprises we do not place too much emphasis upon immediate financial gains, and not enough upon building the co-operative movement. Our goal is to carry our products co-operatively as far toward consumers as possible, and to extend co-operative buying to mines, mills, and factories, in order to protect ourselves against wasteful methods and extortion. To attain this goal, temporary sacrifices may be necessary.

Our co-operative enterprises have saved money for their patrons—lots of it! Further, it is the purpose of the co-operative movement—from the economic standpoint, at least—to make savings for co-operators. It is legitimate enough, therefore, to urge our fellow farmers to get into the movement and patronize our co-operative enterprises because they can save money by it.

But by stressing immediate financial gains constantly, we are in danger of creating the impression that accepting the best immediate bargain is the only thing to look for—it is quite justifiable. We may hold the immediate penny so close to the eye as to obscure the more distant dollar. This produces only fair-weather co-operators.

In presenting the gains to be made by co-operation, we should not fail to emphasize the fact that we are building a movement, and that sacrifices may sometimes be necessary. Co-operative enterprises that are not fully developed and integrated into the life of the community are not to be trusted; they are not always able to return us more for our products, or always secure all of our goods and supplies more cheaply, than old-line agencies. Moreover, old-line concerns may do business at a loss in order to attract patronage and undermine the co-operatives.

The farmer who sticks to our co-operative enterprises through thick and thin will be financially ahead by so doing; but there may be times when on some particular item he could do better outside. To accept the best bargain in such instances, to go in for the immediate financial gain, weakens the co-operative movement and retards the attainment of our goal.—Editor Herron, in Nebraska Union Farmer.

OURS IS A DISTINGUISHED MOVEMENT

"What distinguishes co-operation from every other movement is that it is at once a strong and calm and wise business, and a strong and fervent and proselytizing faith."—Marshall.

GLIMPSES OF CO-OPERATION

NEBRASKA CHANGES DUES APPORTIONMENT

Beginning January first, 1928, the Farmers Union of Nebraska puts into effect a change in the apportionment of the dues paid by their members. Heretofore they have put 40 cents per member into the treasury of the county organization, and that will be reduced to 25 cents. There will be a reduction also of 15 cents per member in the amount retained by the local. This will add 30 cents per member to the income of the state union, giving the state \$1.70 per member. Of this 25 cents goes to the National union, leaving \$1.45 to be used by the state organization.

In Kansas the dues of \$2.25 per member are apportioned as follows: To the local, 80 cents. To the county, 20 cents. To the national union 25 cents. To the state, \$1.00. Out of this dollar the state publishes the Kansas Union Farmer at a cost (last year) of 84 cents per member. (We admit that it is worth much more than that.) This leaves us 16 cents per member for administration and field work.

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REFLECTIONS

PAYING THE FIDDLER

The British government received last year from their war debtors 8,200,000 pounds (about 40 million dollars), and paid on their debt to the United States 33,100,000 pounds (about 165 million dollars). The amount received by Great Britain was less than half the maximum amount provided by the agreements, but that paid to the United States was 87 per cent of the provided maximum.

Germany paid Great Britain 14,500,000 pounds, and when the full Dawes annuities are reached will be paying 20,000,000 pounds per year (Nearly 100 million dollars). The dance of death requires a very high priced and very exacting violinist.

BUT THIS IS FOR A DIFFERENT FIDDLE

A novel method of quickly restoring the tone quality of a violin, which has become sluggish and impaired in this respect, due to long periods of disuse, consists in placing the instrument with its sound holes in close proximity to a radio loud speaker. It has been found that new violins can be "aged" in the same way.—Luke Mattera, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN"

"With air force development as it is, with developments in range, with developments in chemicals, with developments in liquid gas—if we go on as we are now, air warfare in the future may well mean the destruction of civilization as we know it today."—Sir Samuel Hoare, British M. P.

"The facts" are now known about Lewisite, the gas prepared by the United States chemical department for the campaign of 1919, but never used. Lewisite is invisible, it is a sinking gas, which would reach down to the cellars and dug-outs; if inhaled, it is fatal at once, if it settles on the skin, it produces a certain death. It is persistent; it has 55 times the 'spread' of any poison gas actually used in the war. Indeed, it was estimated by an expert that one dozen Lewisite air bombs of the largest size known in 1918—of larger sizes could now be used—might in favorable circumstances have wiped out the population of Berlin. And Lewisite is not the last word in gases. It is known that later research has given yet better results in future effect, in penetration, in persistence, and in 'spread.'—Professor Noel Baker in his book on "Disarmament."

Austin Haines Sees a Great Program Set Up—The Fight Was Incidental and Unimportant

(By Austin Haines)

The 23rd National convention of the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of America was held in Des Moines on November 15, 16 and 17. No session of the national body ever put forward a more comprehensive and constructive program than it did in its resolutions and committee reports.

For the first time the national organization went on record, clearly and unmistakably, as endorsing the principles of agricultural equality embodied in the McNary-Haugen bill. There should be in every aggressive organization but they were of minor importance compared to the big, broad things that were accomplished. Newspaper reporters, misinterpreting the situation, wrote articles indicating that there was a break in Farmers Union ranks, when, as a matter of fact, the Farmers Union never went to the world with so definite a platform for economic justice as it does as a result of the deliberations of this greeting.

Mayor Hunter of Des Moines, in welcoming the guests to Iowa's capital city, sounded the fundamental key-note of the convention when he declared himself in favor of the principles of the McNary-Haugen bill. Milo Reno extended the hospitality of the state in entertaining the national organization for the first time and referred to the farmers' inalienable right to make mistakes, which C. E. Huff, president of the Kansas Farmers Union, and one of the outstanding figures among farm organization leaders, dwelt upon in responding to the words of welcome that had been spoken.

After that the convention settled down to routine business that is embraced in the detailed committee reports and resolutions which were adopted, as follows:

1. The national Board of Directors reported that it had received monthly the financial statements of the secretary and treasurer and found that they corresponded accurately with his annual statement to the convention. They warned state organizations for the efforts of President Barrett on incorporation papers in their respective states.

2. The committee on officers reports comprised of C. W. Booth, W. P. McGee and A. W. Kinney, commended the national officers for the service they had rendered to the organization since the previous annual convention and expressed appreciation for the efforts of President Barrett, Vice President Simpson, Secretary Davis and the national board of directors.

3. Secretary A. C. Davis reported regarding organization work, with special reference to the establishment of the Farmers Union in North Dakota through the support of the Iowa division and urged upon the delegates the need for adequate legislation, co-operation and organization if the Farmers Union was to fulfill its proper function.

"The more war in the West and the whole of the civilization of the ages will fall with as great a crash as that of Rome."—British Prime Minister.

ASIDE FROM THIS FARM? IS ALL RIGHT

Farm mortgage indebtedness has increased over 400 millions since 1910, and 133 millions over 1920, and in the three years of 1924-26, a total of 4,984 mortgages representing \$33,500,000, were foreclosed, not counting the unknown hundreds where owners turned ad over by deed to mortgage holders.

The farmer has less equity per acre on higher priced land now than in low priced land in 1910 and he cannot now take his equity and buy as many acres free of incumbrance as in 1910. One reason is the increased interest charges and taxes.

The average prices paid for the principal farm products are so little above the actual production costs that an insufficient profit remains whereby the farm operator may secure the ordinary conveniences of living, like light, heat, water, radio, bath and toilet facilities, open to the worker as well as the business man in the towns and cities, the figures showing radios on 16 per cent of the farms, while bath facilities are found on only one in twelve.

The chattel mortgage indebtedness is steadily increasing by years.

STILL—THE TARIFF HELPS THE STEEL TRUST, AND IT IS WELL ORGANIZED

No complicated scheme of relief, no plan of government fixing of prices, no resort to the public treasury will be of any permanent value in establishing agriculture. Simple and direct methods put into operation by the farmer himself are the only sources of restoration. His customer with whom he exchanges the product of the farm is organized; labor is organized; business is organized; and there is no way for agriculture to meet this unless it too is organized. Co-operative marketing is the only road to a prosperous and profitable agriculture. It is a principle that must be introduced at the base of our agriculture establishment.—President Coolidge.

THE VERY IDEA

We don't know what England is coming to. Positive? No. We can remember, not so many years ago, when agricultural workers were hired at the fairs for about \$60 per year, and had to work from sun-up to sundown six days of the week, and had

about fifteen odd jobs to do on Sunday. Then they were kept in their proper place and recognized the humble station in which God had placed them.

But now they have a Workers' Union—not a Farmers' Union, but a Workers' Union—launched at a recent meeting of the Council of Agriculture in England on October 20th, they introduced a resolution which is so far reaching and revolutionary that it is almost incredible.

It seems there has been some movement on foot to treat the agricultural workers the same as the industrial workers of the city in regard to unemployment insurance, and this move having failed, the president of the Agricultural Workers' Union—one Mr. John Beard—proposed at the aforesaid meeting of the Council of Agriculture "that a scheme be set up

whereby agricultural workers will be assured of two weeks holiday per annum with pay." What right have agricultural workers to two weeks holiday? The next thing they will be forming golf clubs, and wintering on the Riviera. If this thing is not stopped pretty soon, all the old estate-lords in England will go by the board, and the man who produces food for the nation will begin to think that he is a human-being just like the gentlemen in the cities.

The vicar and the squire must have failed lamentably in their duty these latter days, if John Hodge, Agricultural Worker, is beginning to get such notions of his own importance. Two weeks holiday per year with pay—possibly to take his wife and babies to the seaside and lounge around just like a gentleman; it is an amazing request.

No, no John Hodge, your business is to feed swine to the glory of God, and not to be aping your betters by thinking of two weeks holiday per year to take your wife and babies to the seaside. Keep away from that Communist stuff, and go on silently spreading mud on the fields of Merry England. You'll get your reward in heaven.

Fortunately, although Conservative England has been slipping—and slipping badly of late years—the English Council of Agriculture have this to their credit—that they turned down the revolutionary proposal of President John Beard, and gave that gentleman (or "clodhopper," perhaps some would say), something to pull his whiskers over and reflect about.—The Western Producer, Saskatoon, Canada.

Pen Pictures of the National Convention

We Shall Give to Our Readers the Pictures of the Convention as Drawn by Editors in Other States. Our Position Colors Our Judgment. These Men Are All Honest in Their Reports, But the Reports Reflect Their Convictions

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3. Secretary A. C. Davis reported regarding organization work, with special reference to the establishment of the Farmers Union in North Dakota through the support of the Iowa division and urged upon the delegates the need for adequate legislation, co-operation and organization if the Farmers Union was to fulfill its proper function.

4. The committee on legislation offered a report unanimously adopted, that contained the following plans: opposing compulsory military training; opposing educational institutions; approving the stand of Senator Norris of Nebraska, in opposing private ownership of Muscle Shoals; denouncing the automatic control over federal land banks by the board of directors; opposing the reduction of income taxes on the higher brackets; favoring inheritance and gift taxes as rapidly as possible; favoring government banks of issue in place of the present Federal Reserve System; and endorsing the principles of the McNary-Haugen Bill.

5. The convention adopted, without division, a resolution offered by Robert Moore approving a graduated land tax to avert the dangers of corporation farming.

6. Mr. Huff, of Kansas, obtained endorsement of a resolution calling upon the editors of various Farmers Union state papers to co-ordinate their activities.

7. Representatives of the cotton growing states urged the formation of a Farmers Union marketing association for their product and its mediation for their product and its mediation with the approval of the convention.

8. A memorial to Honest John Tromble, late Kansas state president, was read upon the minutes of the convention commending him as one whose "grasp of principles, vision, sound judgment, genial friendliness, and above all sterling integrity made him the respected friend and counselor of all."

9. The convention resolved that it was opposed to the efforts of state and national veterinaries, county agents and others financially interested to enforce any compulsory tuberculosis tests for dairy cattle.

10. The committee on Grain Marketing, composed of C. C. Talbott, of North Dakota, J. J. O'Shea, of Montana and H. L. Click, of Nebraska, secured endorsement of their report that grain marketing agencies be established under the auspices of the Farmers Union to furnish a square deal for the growers.

11. A resolution was unanimously adopted commending the passage of laws similar to that which the Farmers Union of Iowa recently got thru the state legislature authorizing the establishment of co-operative banks, along the lines of the Rochdale plan.

12. The committee on co-operative gas and oil companies reported favorably to the establishment of such concerns, based on the experience of the Nebraska Farmers Union, and recommended uniform articles of incorporation be adopted for all such Farmers Union business activities.

13. The radio committee urged keeping the air free from automatic control and more specifically approved of the fearless stand taken by Norman Baker, owner of Station "KTNT" at Muscatine, Iowa, in presenting to his thousands of listeners the viewpoint of the Farmers Union on questions of the day.

14. The Ladies Auxiliary of Iowa presented a request that they be given

on a hearing before the national Board of Directors to develop a plan for co-ordinating the work of the various state auxiliaries.

15. It was recommended to the convention and approved by it that in communities where 2,000 bales of cotton were raised, co-operative cotton gins be utilized, but that such organizations should not enter into the speculative buying of cotton.

Ladies' Auxiliary Junior Contest

Prizes For Best Letters Containing Suggestions For Conducting A Junior Department. Prizes For The Best Name For Us To Use.

In order for us to get our Junior department started and in good running order by the first of the year, it has been suggested that we begin with a contest, that will last through November and December, ending December 31st.

This contest may be participated in, by any child under fifteen years of age, whose parents are members of the Farmers Union in good standing. The requirements of the contest will be, a letter written by the child giving his ideas of how a Junior Department should be conducted, and a name by which the Juniors will be known, in the columns of the paper.

The judges will grade on neatness. The prizes will be a Fountain Pen for the Best Letter and an Eversharp Pencil for the one the judges think is next best. The best letters will be printed, and all who write letters will receive Honorable mention.

Send your letters to the JUNIOR EDITOR, KANSAS UNION FARMER, SALINA, KANSAS, BOX 48.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PEACE TREATIES

(All thinking people are concerned about the question of war. Of all groups none has greater reason to dread war than those engaged in agriculture. Farms furnish sons for battle and food for armies, and acquire a very heavy share of ensuing debt. Here is a proposal, sponsored by leaders in education, religion, in statesmanship. What could your Auxiliary do about this?)

On April 6, 1927, the tenth anniversary of the entry of the United States into the World War, M. Briand, the Foreign Minister of France, proposed to the people of the United States the "renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy." "France," he said, "would be willing to subscribe publicly with the United States to a mutual agreement tending to 'outlaw war' (to use an American expression) as between these two countries." The French Cabinet, according to the New York Times of June 28, 1927, endorsed this proposal, and the American Ambassador, Mr. Herrick, on behalf of the French government brought to our state department in June a definite project for a "treaty of eternal peace" between France and the United States.

Forty-three nations have already negotiated 82 treaties in which they agree to settle their differences without war. The United States is not among the nations that have negotiated such treaties. France has signed five; Great Britain one. Our present arbitration treaty with France expires in February, 1928; that with Great Britain in June, 1928. Several great national organizations and many leaders of thought in the United States have endorsed the proposal that our country make treaties with France and other responsible nations providing amicable ways of dealing with problems arising between them.

If such treaties are to be negotiated and ratified this winter or next spring, the president and senate must know that public sentiment favors such action. This sentiment doubtless exists in a large degree throughout the country; it should be given expression. The young people of the world are deeply concerned in the discovery of other and better methods than war of settling international disputes.

To arouse and direct the thought of the youth of the United States along these fruitful lines, national prizes are offered by Clement M. Biddis of New York for the preparation and public delivery by young people not over 19 years of age of addresses on permanent world peace through treaties for the renunciation of war and the settlement of all international disputes by other means than war.

There will be (1) Contests in public speaking. (2) Contests among the writers of their own speeches.

Contests in Public Speaking
Local Leadership for Bronze-Medal Contest.
Any newspaper editor, school superintendent, school principal, minister, church-school superintendent, teacher, club leader, or other interested person in any community who arranges for five or more entrants may apply to the National Committee in Charge for

State and National Contests Among Writers of Their Own Speeches.
Contestants are encouraged to write their own address in competition for the bronze medals. Wherever a bronze-medal contest is held, whether as a part of this or any similar peace oratorical competition of young people not over 19, the judges may select not more than two of the original speeches that they regard as most meritorious in point of content as well as form and submit them to the national committee before March 31, 1928. A national board of judges will consider all such manuscripts and award prizes before May 31, 1928.

Prizes for Original Speeches
First—\$500, to be used, preferably for a summer trip to Geneva, Switzerland, and other points in Europe.
Second—\$300, to be used, preferably, towards the meeting of school or college expenses.
Third—\$200, to be used, preferably towards the meeting of school or college expenses.

Gold Medal for State Winners.
In addition, a gold medal will be awarded to the writer of the best original speech in each state.
Applications or commissions to act as supervisors of local contests and requests for information should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee in Charge, National Oratorical Contest on Outlaw-War Treaties, 532 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

CONVENTION SONGS
We have a supply of the songs that were used at the convention. Anyone wishing to buy these songs in any amount may have them for 1c each. C. W. Brasted, Sec'y, Salina, Kansas, Box 51.

Every farm should have one or two good nailing hammers. The best grade is the cheapest in the end. Get an adze-eye, bell-face hammer which weighs either 16 or 20 ounces. Keep it with your other shop tools in a dry, safe place.

Under the Holy Child of Bethlehem Under the Bethlehem star
And the bright star of peace
Shall illumine the East
To guide the "wise men" from afar.
—Jean Gray.

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THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FARMERS UNION HELD AT DES MOINES IN NOVEMBER

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continued from last week)

We have received the secretary-treasurer financial reports monthly and find that his annual financial report corresponds with them. We regret very much to state that none of the business activities have contributed 2 per cent of their net earnings to their state and national organization for educational purpose under the resolution passed at the last national convention. We have had in mind the purpose of keeping down expenses by holding only two meetings that were absolutely necessary since last convention and feel that states having a small membership should be more considerate when calling for assistance from the national office and have their plans made to hold a series of booster meetings that will attract new members and business to our organization as we find that the travelling expenses incurred going to some states are very much in excess of the dues received.

During the past year the National Board of Directors has been confronted with two complicated questions, one in Illinois, the other in Wisconsin. The Illinois case was carried over from the previous year. After the adjournment of the convention at Hot Springs, the executive board at their meeting appointed J. M. Collins of Colorado as a committee to meet with the two factions in Illinois and arbitrate their differences. Mr. Collins met with them as requested, but was unable to bring about an amicable settlement, and that question has been allowed to drift along until the present time owing to the fact that the Northern group refused to confer any further because their differences were such as to make it a useless effort. The case that led up to the trouble in Illinois was owing to the failure of the southern group to secure a charter from the state of Illinois, thereby leaving an opening for anyone to use the same name branch of the national organization. Therefore, we issue a warning, if any state organization of the F. E. & C. U. of A. does not have a state charter they have not protection from the state, and the national organization cannot stop others from incorporating the name Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union if they do not claim to be members of the national organization. So far as we are able to learn, the Northern group are going along attending to the development of their business and the marketing of live stock through the Farmers Union Livestock Commission at Chicago organizing grain elevators, cream and produce stations, and the purchase of flour, feeds, fencing, twine, etc., under the state charter of the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of Illinois. It is very regrettable that the Northern group could not have seen fit to have retained the original name (National Farmers Union) until such time as the Southern group had been amalgamated and in that way would not have interfered with the morale of the Southern group, which holds a national charter, and caused some criticism of your national officers. The national organization recognizes the Southern group as the only legal representatives of the F. E. & C. U. of A. Although we have been unable to settle the differences between these two factions, it is to be hoped that they will see the necessity in the near future to bring their differences, become united and co-operate together for the good of the cause.

Owing to some misunderstandings in regard to methods being pursued in organizing the open territory around St. Paul, a meeting of the National Board was held in St. Paul, March 12, 1927. After due consideration, a resolution was adopted to appoint a committee from the National Board and the business activities contributing to the finances to pay the organization expenses. That committee then placed the active organization work in charge of Mr. M. W. Thatcher, A. W. Ricker and C. C. Tabot and the work was pushed forward with a force that put North Dakota over the top with more than 6,000 members, which is bringing a large volume of both grain and livestock to our sales agencies in St. Paul and Duluth and a splendid opening for both the life and property insurance companies for increased business.

The intensive organization campaign in North Dakota called for all the workers at the disposal of the committee to such an extent as to interfere with the organizing in Wisconsin which brought about some friction in that state with a small group of organizers and members which resulted in their taking out incorporation papers for the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of Wisconsin upon their own initiative without calling a convention of the members or notifying the national office. The next step taken was to persuade the locals in Eau Claire County to surrender their charters which they hold from the National office of the Farmers Union and receive in exchange charters from the new organization which caused an open rebellion against the National organization and the North West committee.

The rupture necessitated a meeting of the National officers at Augusta, Wisconsin, September 12, at which time a hearing was held with both parties. After due consideration of the grievances the following resolutions were adopted 1, 2, 3, Decision of National Board of Directors of the Farmer's Union September 13, 1927.

In order not to engender strife and precipitate a situation calculated to greatly retard and hinder the program of the People of Wisconsin in

the self help movement we strongly urge the Committee of N. W. to refrain from entering the State of Wisconsin for organizing purposes; but the National Board of Directors reserve the right to regard Wisconsin open territory and to enter it for organization purposes when expediency on necessity seems to demand.

With reference to the situation developed in Wisconsin by the action of certain persons who have seen fit to incorporate the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union at Wisconsin, the National Board of Directors, by vote adopted the following expression of their attitude:

In-as-much as this movement was in the nature of a revolt against constituted authority set up under the direction of the National Board of Directors, by vote adopted the following expression of their attitude:

With reference to the resolution presented by the full committee of the Northwest Organization Committee, the National Board of Directors by their record vote do hereby concur in and adopt said resolution with the exception that the name of the State of Wisconsin be stricken from the recommendation, that the committee continue as heretofore and that the Committee in organization work confine itself to Minnesota and North Dakota.

J. M. Collins
Sec'y of National Board
H. G. Keeney
A. E. Cotterill.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE F. E. U. M. L. INSURANCE COMPANY AT THE

In organizing an institution if that institution is to be successful the organizers must have a vision of what they expect to accomplish, and in considering the success of an enterprise it is necessary to know the purpose for which it was organized. The Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Iowa Farmers Union to investigate the insurance proposition as to how it would benefit the membership of the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of America, recommended that steps be taken to organize an insurance company for the reason that "The major portion of the financial resources of the nation and realizing that this potent source of economic power can be made to function for the farmer."

A committee on Co-operative Life Insurance was appointed at the eighteenth annual meeting held at Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1922, and in recommending to the membership the Mutual Life Insurance Company operated and controlled by the Farmers Union they gave as their first reason, "The life insurance reserves of the United States is the largest single force in national finance, and we should endeavor to take our part of the benefits and accept our part of the responsibilities of building and administering same."

I have quoted briefly from these Committees reports, but sufficient to show the original intent of the organizers. Your Company was five years old on the 17th of last month, and I submit the following facts and figures as evidence of what has been accomplished.

The admitted assets at the close of each year were as follows:

Dec. 31, 1922	\$ 7,254.58
Dec. 31, 1923	40,038.00
Dec. 31, 1924	110,564.29
Dec. 31, 1925	207,254.44
Dec. 31, 1926	303,042.17

On Sept. 30, 1927, they were \$391,976.66. This picture clearly the rapid increase of the reserves on insurance policies and the importance of the farmer carrying his insurance in a company controlled by himself.

It is estimated that 90% of all farm mortgages are owned by insurance companies but you all know that farm investments are not as attractive as they once were and the percentage of insurance funds invested in farm loans has been decreasing steadily for several years and the farmer has no assurance that he can count on the continued support of the old line companies.

The amount returned to the policyholders in dividends has increased substantially each year. The first dividends were paid October 17, 1924, on which date the original policies were two years old. The total amount paid in each year was:

1924	\$1,581.75
1925	3,352.30
1926	8,075.91
and to October 30, 1927	9,494.62

We have paid \$57,000.00 in death claims since the company's organization distributed by year as follows:

1923	\$ 4,000.00
1924	7,500.00
1925	4,500.00
1926	15,000.00
1927 to Oct. 30th	24,000.00

The surplus fund has grown from \$458.51 on December 31, 1922, to \$41,173.32 on Sept. 30, 1927.

The Insurance in force at the end of each year is as follows:

Illinois	7,000
Florida	4,000
Wyoming	5,000
Wisconsin	1,000
Iowa	6,745,250

You will notice that a few policies have been written by mail in states where we have no license.

On Oct. 30th we had \$340,850.00 in following states:

Iowa	\$290,650
Minnesota	32,000
Arkansas	10,500
South Dakota	3,500
South Dakota	4,700

We also had \$28,240.06 loaned to our policyholders in premium notes and policy loans that will compare favorably for the policyholders and that the benefits to be derived from your company as a financial institution are in direct proportion to the size of the company.

Your Company has made a record during its first five years which every Farmer's Union member should be proud, and especially those who helped make this record by taking insurance in their own company.

In round numbers the average yearly increase in assets has been \$75,000.00; the average amount paid yearly in death claims \$11,400.00; for the three years we have paid dividends they have averaged \$7,000.00 yearly; the average yearly increase in surplus has been \$9,000.00 and of insurance in force over \$1,500,000.00.

This record will compare favorably with the first five years of any company ever started.

We have made this creditable showing because thousands of our members have realized not only the value of life insurance to themselves, but the necessity of owning and controlling their own company.

In closing I want to thank the delegates and members for the co-operation and support they have given to make the company a success. Without this support you could not have the company as you have and have the confidence of this support its continued progress is assured.

E. E. KENSINGER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

WHEREAS, outbreaks of contagious and infectious diseases in poultry in various parts of the nation have been effectively stamped out by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, ambiguity seems to exist in the meaning of the term "live stock" as it applies to regulatory work concerning poultry under the authority of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union at its 23rd Annual Session at Des Moines, Iowa, November 15th and 17, 1927, most respectfully urge Congress at the earliest possible date to amend the Acts of February 3, 1903, and March 5, 1909, so that live poultry without question shall be regarded as "livestock" under the terms of these Acts to the end that the poultry industry of this nation may be given protection in its times of need by the United States Department of Agriculture.

C. W. BOOTH,
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS REPORT.

To the Officers and Members of the National Union:

We, your Committee on officers reports, desire to express appreciation of the work of the National President not only in his efforts to protect and promote the work peculiar to our own organization, but for the special effort that he has made to bring about an understanding between the great farm organizations of the country as indicated in his report to this convention.

We have examined the report of the Board of Directors and desire to thank them for the manner in which they have presented the work that has come within their problem during the past year.

We desire especially to call the attention of the convention to the very able report of the Secretary-treasurer. He has given us a most interesting and brief way the foundation for an aggressive campaign upon lines that are fundamentally sound, and which, if adhered to, will result in a great expansion of the organization during the coming year.

In our judgment, all of the officers—President, Vice President, Secretary-treasurer and Board of Directors have been conscientious in the discharge of their duties.

Fraternally submitted,

C. W. BOOTH.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

1. We are opposed to military training in our high schools and colleges, especially the compulsory part, and we seriously object to the excessive expenditures for maintenance of state military and citizens training camps under the guise of education.

2. We approve the stand taken by Senator Norris of Nebraska on the Muscle Shoals question, in which he has stood for the people and against the government should complete, own and operate this plant in the interest of all peoples.

3. We earnestly protest against the usurpation of authority of the Federal Land Bank board over the affairs of the Land Bank and demand that the control of this institution be restored to the Farmer's stockholders as the law provides.

4. We are emphatically opposed to the proposed reduction of normal income tax rates, especially on the higher income brackets.

5. We believe that an inheritance and gifts tax is the fairest tax that can be levied for the reason that no part of it can be passed on to the consumer. We also believe that a great war debt should be reduced as rapidly as possible, and that an inheritance tax materially assists in this reduction without burdening any one. We, therefore, are unalterably

STOCK MARKET

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 8, 1927.
LIKES OUR WORK
Selden, Kansas, Dec. 3, 1927.
Farmers Union L. S. Commission,
Kansas City, Mo.;
Dear Sirs—

I am shipping you a load of cattle. I have sent my last five loads of stock to your firm, and I never got better service, and I have shipped to more than a dozen of the biggest firms at this yards in the last 40 years.

Yours truly,

Elroy Wyant.

STOCKS—All well fatted cattle sold fully steady this week, but cattle fed only 40 to 60 days were fully 25 lower. However, market is closing active and strong, shortfolds today bringing 11.50 to 13.50, with lightweights, only fair quality and flesh, at 10.5 to 11.50. Choice heavy, and yearling, up to 16.25. WE SOLD yearlings Wednesday at 16.25. We predict a sharp rowel spread in fat cattle, and believe where cattle are only shorted and light fleshed it is good business to make them fat. Some right good grades sold at 11.75 this week, but they were fat.

STOCKERS & FEEDERS—Searce and fully steady—packers buying most of the feeders showing flesh at 10.50 to 11.50. Best light whiteface stockers, still bringing 10.50 to 11.50 in load lots, fair to good 9.50 to 10.25. Best shortfolds 9.00 to 9.50, fair to good 8.50 to 9.00, plain 8.00 to 8.50. Heavyweight goods 7.25 to 8.00. Lights 6.50 to 7.25.

COWS, HEIFERS, MIXED YEARLINGS & BULLS—All classes killing cows closing active, good choice yearling cows up to 9.00, good 7.75 to 8.25, fair 6.25 to 6.75, cutters 5.50, canners 5.00. Killing heifers 25 to 35 lower for the week; bulk selling at 8.50 to 9.50, best kinds fed heifer 10 to 11 cents. Fed mixed yearlings little slow, although choice are fully steady. WE SOLD fancy fed heifers at 15.00. Stock cows and heifers steady. Bulls active, choice heavy 7.25.

CALVES—Weals \$1.00 to \$1.50 lower than week ago, practical 12.00. Few at 12.50. Medium weight and heavy killers 8.50 to 10.00. Stock calves steady.

HOGS—Market closing steady for the week, with a slight decline in various parts of the nation have been effectively stamped out by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture; and ambiguity seems to exist in the meaning of the term "live stock" as it applies to regulatory work concerning poultry under the authority of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture;

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Department of Practical Co-Operation

WATER POWER

We are changing the policy of this department, beginning the first of the year. The Meeting Notices that have appeared here to fore were 100% locals for 1926. At this time we are showing only those that are 100% for 1927. All 100% locals for 1927 that wish their meeting notice to be published will receive this service free of charge. Locals that are not paid up in full but want their meeting notice published can have space in this department for One Cent per word per week.

ALLEN COUNTY
FAIRLAWN LOCAL NO. 2158
Meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Glen Thompson, Sec.
GOLDEN VALLEY LOCAL NO. 2157
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. H. V. Adams, Sec.
LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 2148
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. Ray Wilson, Sec.
SILVER LEAF LOCAL NO. 2156
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Mrs. M. A. Fender, Sec.
DIAMOND LOCAL NO. 2081
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. R. C. Parham, Sec.
ALLEN CENTER LOCAL NO. 2155
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. M. A. Fender, Sec.
FAIRVIEW LOCAL NO. 2154
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Mrs. Chas. L. Stewart, Sec.

ANDERSON COUNTY
LITZTOWN LOCAL NO. 2064
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. A. W. Williams, Sec.
CHASE COUNTY
COTTONWOOD VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1833
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. L. K. Graham, Sec.

CHESTER COUNTY
NEUTRAL LOCAL NO. 2108
Meets the first Tuesday of each month. C. A. Atkinson, Secretary.
OWSLEY LOCAL NO. 2004
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Joe Farmer, Sec.

CLAY COUNTY
FOUR MILE LOCAL NO. 1128
Meets the first Tuesday of each month. G. W. Tomlinson, Sec.

COFFEY COUNTY
SUNNYSIDE LOCAL NO. 2144
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Mrs. H. B. Lusk, Sec.

COWLEY COUNTY
BRAVER LOCAL NO. 1558
Meets the first and third Monday nights of each month. Mrs. Don Barrie, Sec.

DOUGLAS COUNTY
CARGY LOCAL NO. 2136
Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. R. E. Titcher, Sec.
FRANKLIN LOCAL NO. 1532
Meets the first Friday of each month. Mrs. Frank Popping, Sec.
"ELLSWORTH COUNTY
ADVANCE LOCAL NO. 1838
Meets on the first Monday of each month. F. F. Svoboda, Sec.
LIBERTY LOCAL NO. 925
Meets every first and third Monday of each month. Ed Mog, Sec.
TRIVOLI LOCAL NO. 1001
Meets the first Monday evening in each month. W. H. Fanning, Sec.

ELLIS COUNTY
HAYS LOCAL NO. 864
Meets the first Friday in each month, alternating Pleasant Hill at 7:30 in the evening with Hays Court House at 2:00 in the afternoon. Frank B. Puffer, Sec.

EXCELSIOR LOCAL NO. 806
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. Joseph L. Weber, Sec.
PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1804
Meets the first and third Monday of each month. Frank Reimeyer, Sec.

GREENWOOD COUNTY
NEAL LOCAL NO. 1313
Meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. J. C. Graves, Sec.
SOUTH VIRGINIA LOCAL 1488
Meets every second Friday night. H. L. Soule, Sec.

GOVE COUNTY
PARK LOCAL NO. 1012
Meets the last Saturday of each month. Jas. Hein, Sec.

JEWELL COUNTY
PLEASANT VALLEY LOCAL NO. 1309
Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Wm. H. Plun, Sec.

JOHNSON COUNTY
SHARON LOCAL NO. 1744
Meets the last Friday of each month. Mrs. Cussie K. DeVault, Sec.

LINN COUNTY
BUCKEYE LOCAL NO. 2074
Meets the first Monday night of each month. Roy E. Emmons, Sec.

MARSHALL COUNTY
SUMMIT LOCAL NO. 859
Meets the second and fourth Wednesday night each month. Nels Samuelson, Sec.
BREMEN LOCAL NO. 2122
Meets the first Wednesday of each month. F. C. Fraiss, Sec.
BLUE VALLEY LOCAL NO. 781
Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Chas. Musil, Sec.

MITCHELL COUNTY
PLUM CREEK LOCAL NO. 450
Meets the first Friday of each month at Plum Creek school house. F. A. Mitchell, Sec.

OTTAWA COUNTY
SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 1462
Meets the second and last Friday of each month. Walter Lott, Sec.
GROVER LOCAL NO. 102
Meets every other Wednesday night. Anna Bremerman, Sec.

RILEY COUNTY
ROCK ISLAND LOCAL NO. 1199
Meets the first Tuesday evening of the month. C. W. Thrift, Sec.
GRAND VIEW LOCAL NO. 1214
Meets on Friday night every two weeks. Esther Shorman, Sec.

RUSH COUNTY
SAND CREEK LOCAL NO. 844
Meets the first and third Friday of each month. A. R. Wilson, Sec.

SMITH COUNTY
OAK CREEK NO. 1185
Meets at Stuart on the second Monday of each month. H. J. Schwarz, Sec.

STAFFORD COUNTY
UNION LOCAL NO. 2019
Meets the first and third Friday of each month. J. W. Batchman, Sec.

TREGO COUNTY
VODA LOCAL NO. 72
Meets the fourth Friday in every month. Alfred Renneymeyer, Sec.-Treas.

WABASSEE COUNTY
FREEMONT LOCAL NO. 1014
Meets the first and third Friday of the month. A. E. Eisenmenger, Sec.
WASHINGTON COUNTY
JERNIK LOCAL NO. 1427
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Henry Eden, Sec.

enable it to function as a common carrier and handle all the freight which may be tendered to it, and to extend this service to connecting streams as soon as a sufficient channel is provided to permit commercial navigation thereon.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS
We, the National Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of America in convention, assembled, wish to thank the State Union of Iowa; its president, Milo Reno; its Secretary, H. E. Roe; Mayor Hunter for his cordial welcome; the Iowa State Bank; the Hackney Harmony Hounds of Kansas; the city of Des Moines for the abundant hospitality and entertainment extended to us while in their city.

C. E. BRASTED
ALEX. BIRCHER,
C. W. BOOTH,
C. C. TALBOT.

(Continued next week)

POLITICS AND MUSCLE SHOALS

By Senator Geo. W. Norris.
(Continued from last week)

What Farms Should Be

I have before me a photograph of the farm home of Mr. E. Siple, a Canadian citizen who lives in Ontario. He has 79 acres in his farm, and at the time I visited him he was milking 17 cows by electricity. He filled his silo by electricity. He ground his feed by electricity. He pumped the water by electricity. Every cow in his stall had a bucket of water within her reach. When she drank the water in the bucket it was automatically filled again. Mr. Siple's barn could be lighted up throughout by the pushing of a button. His house was a beautiful modern cottage, the equal of any in our cities in America. There was running water in the kitchen and in the bathroom. Mrs. Siple cooked the year around on an electric stove. She had an electric fan in the kitchen. She washed her dishes in water that she heated by electricity. The bathroom was supplied with water heated by electricity. She did her washing, ironing, sweeping, all by electricity. In fact, she had practically all of the modern electrical conveniences known to science today.

The installation on this farm of this system of electricity had practically saved Mr. Siple the expense of one hired man and it saved his wife the expense of a hired girl. He paid for the entire facilities for the year in which I visited him \$115.49. Like the city man, he paid amortization fee and also included in this bill an item which, in thirty years, will pay off the entire capital stock, including the construction of transmission lines.

Who is there under our flag that would not like to see this condition applied to the American farmer? If the South were to avail itself of the opportunities that are within its reach the time would soon be here when every toiler in the fields throughout the South would have the same advantage possessed by this farmer brother in the North.

Impractical for Nitrate
In connection with Muscle Shoals there remains for discussion the question of fertilizer. When the original act providing for the development of Muscle Shoals was passed, there were two provisions contained in it that were mandatory. It was provided that all the improvement made at government expense at Muscle Shoals should forever be operated by the government, and that the property should be sold or leased for operation to private parties. It was likewise provided that in time of peace, the power developed on the Tennessee river at the government dam should be used in the extraction of nitrogen from the atmosphere for the purpose of manufacturing fertilizer for agriculture.

Those who are continually harping against government operation are always calling attention to that part of the original act which says that in time of peace we shall use the power for the manufacture of fertilizer. They never say anything about that provision of the law which says that the property shall be sold or leased for operation by private parties.

At the time this law was passed, it was believed by practically everybody that the use of cheap power would be able to extract nitrogen from the air at a price that would materially reduce the cost of fertilizer to the farmer.

Originally, nitrogen was extracted from the atmosphere by what was known as the Haber process. It required a great deal of cheap power. Later on the Cyanamid method was discovered, requiring much less power. That was about the condition of the knowledge presented in America at the time of the breaking out of the World War. It was known that the Germans had invented an improvement over the Cyanamid process, known as the Haber process, but the details were not understood by the American scientists at the time of the conclusion of the war.

At the time of the conclusion of the war, the Cyanamid process was well understood. Its possibilities were definitely known, and so the government, not provided for a large plant at Muscle Shoals, known as the Haber process, of extracting 40,000 tons of nitrogen from the atmosphere in a year. Our experts thought that there was a fair possibility of their being able to construct a plant that would extract nitrogen from the air by the Haber process, but they were not certain of it, and so it was decided to construct a nitrate plant somewhat experimental in its nature, known as Nitrate Plant No. 1, which was designed to extract nitrogen from the atmosphere by means of the Haber process. But our scientific advisers were mistaken as to many of the elements included in the Haber process, and so that plant, as far as the machinery was concerned, was a total loss. The building can be used for other purposes. It is now a well-constructed building with a steam plant of about 5,000 horsepower which is modern in every way.

When the war ended scientists soon learned what the Germans knew and which they had greatly improved during the war,